

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT JACK FOISIE BY-LINER, WASHINGTON POST, DECEMBER 27, HEADED "RACIAL MIX IN U.S. EMBASSY IRKS S. AFRICA'S WHITES."

2. JOHANNESBURG--AN AMERICAN SPOKESMAN HERE FOUND IT NECESSARY RECENTLY TO DENY PUBLICLY THAT IT IS U.S. EMBASSY POLICY DELIBERATELY TO INVITE BLACKS TO DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS TO EMBARRASS WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. SPOKESMAN WILLIAM JACOBSEN EMPHASIZED THAT BLACKS ARE INVITED ONLY AS PART OF THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORT "TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE."

4. RESPONDING TO OTHER ALLEGATIONS IN A STORY IN DIE TRANSVAALER, A PAPER READ BY CONSERVATIVE WHITES, JACOBSEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ALSO DENIED THAT WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS APPLYING FOR VISAS AT THE JOHANNESBURG CONSULATE WERE DELIBERATELY INTERVIEWED BY BLACK AMERICANS.

5. JACOBSEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VISA OFFICER IS JOSEPH M. SEGARS, A 38-YEAR-OLD BLACK FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER MAN

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

6. U.S. POLICY, JACOBSEN EXPLAINED, "IS TO MAKE ASSIGNMENTS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION OR SEX."

7. THESE MATTER-OF-FACT REPLIES SUPPORT THE RECORD OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM G. BOUDLER. MORE THAN HIS PREDECESSORS ACCORDING TO EMBASSY STAFFERS, BOWDLER HAS IN ALL POSSIBLE WAYS SHORT OF DISCOURTESY SOUGHT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS THAT THE UNITED STATES "IS OPPOSED TO INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION AS BEING INCOMPATIBLE WITH HUMAN DIGNITY."

8. ALL U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE LIBRARIES ARE OPEN TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS, AND ONE SUCH LIBRARY IS LOCATED IN

SOWETO, LARGEST OF SOUTH AFRICA'S SEGREGATED BLACK CITIES, WITH MORE THAN 800,000 RESIDENTS.

9. THE USIS STAFF, LOCALLY HIRED, COMPRISSES 10 BLACKS, FOUR MIXED-RACE "COLOREDS," TWO INDIANS (ALL SUBJECT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S RACIAL SEPARATION LAWS), AND FIVE SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES. THE WHITES ARE HIRED ONLY ON CONDITION THAT THEY ACCEPT THE SAME PAY SCALES AND TREATMENT AS THEIR DARKER-SKINNED FELLOW EMPLOYEES.

10. WHEN A WHITE AMERICAN USIS STAFFER BECAME ENGAGED TO A MIXED-RACE USIS WORKER, THE COUPLE AVOIDED DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT BY GOING TO SWAZILAND TO MARRY.

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11. DIE TRANVAALER'S ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY AN UNNAMED WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT AND HEADED "AMERICA MEDDLES IN SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS," COMPLAINED THAT USIS READING ROOMS ARE USED BY "ALL KINDS OF BLACK ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS."

12. THE ARTICLE ADDED: "AMERICAN OFFICIALS PRACTICALLY GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INVITE BLACKS TO THEIR HOMES AND IN THIS WAY DELIBERATELY UPSET THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAY OF LIFE." OF BLACK GUESTS AT PARTIES, "SOME ARE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BLACKLIST," THE REPORT CLAIMED.

13. SEGARS IS THE FIRST BLACK U.S. CONSUL TO SERVE IN JOHANNESBURG. HE AGREES THAT WHEN SOUTH AFRICANS ARE USHERED INTO HIS OFFICE "THEY ARE SOMETIMES STARTLED."

14. ASSIGNMENT TO SOUTH AFRICA IS ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS

FOR AMERICAN BLACK DIPLOMATS. THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER

BLACK FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER BESIDES SEGARS NOW SERVING
HERE.

15. AS DIPLOMATS, THEY ARE IMMUNE FROM SOUTH AFRICA'S
SEGREGATION LAWS, BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER OF
HUMILIATING INCIDENTS BEFORE IDENTIFICATION.

16. "MY WIFE AND I ARE NOT INHIBITED, BUT WE'RE A BIT
CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE RULES OF APARTHEID," SEGARS SAID.
"WE WERE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ENTERING OUR
5-YEAR-OLD SON RYAN AT A PRIVATE SCHOOL, BUT IT HAS
WORKED OUT WELL FOR HIM.

17. "COMING TO SOUTH AFRICA WAS PRETTY MUCH MY
INITIATIVE. YOU READ SO MUCH ABOUT THE SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT HERE. I GUESS IT WAS CURIOSITY, PLUS THE
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CHALLENGE OF THE ASSIGNMENT."

18. SEGARS AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH HAVE A COMFORTABLE,
ENGLISH-STYLE, NINE-ROOM HOUSE WITH A ROSE GARDEN
AND SWIMMING POOL IN THE UPPER-CLASS SUBURB, SANDTON.
THEY HAVE TWO BLACK SERVANTS. (END TEXT)
ROBINSON

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